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CONTENTS

Correspondence :
- Medical Commission for France ? George de Swiet, M.D. p. 73
- Petrol Rationing. D. C. Dickson, F.R.C.S.Ed. - - 73
- Previous R.A.M.C. Service and Present Rank - - 73

Naval, Military, and Air Force Appointments - - - p. 74
Postgraduate News and Diary - - - - - - - 74
Diary of Societies and Lectures - - - - - - - 74
B.M.A. Notices - - - - - - - - - - - 74

Correspondence

Medical Commission for France ?

SIR,—New Local Medical War Committees have quite recently been set up throughout the country. They are expected by the Central Medical War Committee to discharge the delicate and important duties now entrusted to them in scrupulous impartiality. This work—as, indeed, the whole business of getting more doctors for the Services—would be greatly facilitated if our profession were to follow (for we still have to *follow*, nearly always) the examples of other important walks of life. We read about members of the Press visiting France and describing many details of what they saw there; we hear about munition experts paying visits across the Channel to inspect arsenals and factories for the sake of better co-operation; even the frivolous side of the life over there finds its echo in the broadcasts by the Garrison Theatre. But what do we know about the conditions of medical work at the front? And ought not we to? For we older men are expected now to push the younger ones into their uniforms without having that moral satisfaction that we ourselves know enough about things to be able to tell the others, if necessary.

Recently an important statement was made in Parliament to the effect that a good deal of the sickness and mortality among the Forces was due to the fact that the younger doctors who were, until lately, in civilian practice did not know enough about military work. On the other hand, however, we were being informed that the medical equipment left something to be desired. But the fact remains that a rapidly growing army needs a rapidly growing supply of medical officers, conscripted or otherwise. The process of supply would be undoubtedly facilitated and accelerated if a group of persons (including one or two women) sufficiently representative of the profession, and consisting of some members of the Central as well as Local Medical War Committees, plus some other organizations (for are not many of them actually to do the "delicate" task?), were to visit places across the water in which the B.E.F. and the R.A.F. are especially interested, and to report (if necessary confidentially) to the rest of the profession for the benefit of doctors as well as combatants.

I am certain that a very different spirit would enter the whole problem if the pleasant and noble aspect of it were fully made known, together with the deficiencies and difficulties, some of which may possibly be imaginary and others real.

Nothing except good could come from such an investigation at first hand and from a frank report, which need not even be unanimous. On the contrary, individual opinions would be of much value in a report of this kind. This would go a long way if pressure were required to be put on the respective Ministries in the event of reforms urgently needed. It would also reassure our colleagues that everything within the country's power has been or will be done to ensure their personal comfort, the comfort of their prospective patients, and the maximum possible technical and scientific equipment without which they cannot be expected to do their medical and surgical best to help win the war.—I am, etc.,

London, W.10, April 19. GEORGE DE SWIET.

Petrol Rationing

SIR,—I wish to draw the attention of headquarters to a growing feeling of resentment in this area to the apparent lack of interest of headquarters in our problems. Your article on petrol rationing in the *Supplement* of April 13 (p. 49) was to us rather uncalled-for, and I feel that selections from that article might be quoted by Petroleum Officers as a reason for cutting down our allowances. Distances here between hospitals are greater than in the South, and many practitioners, like myself, depend for their livelihood on regular attendances at hospitals many miles apart. To travel by other means than car is quite impossible, and to make temporary arrangements with a colleague in the vicinity would be to sacrifice what little private work is left. The doctor who uses more than his basic ration for week-end motoring must be in the great minority, and even to mention him in your article was unwise, for it will not have any effect on him and lays all of us under the charge. We in this area have a letter from someone in authority which states that we must not use even our basic ration for other than professional purposes!

One further grouse. With regard to E.M.S. remuneration, those of us who worked under the old sessional scheme and kept an exact record of our attendances find ourselves very much worse off under the new "occupied bed" scheme. This must be the real test, and nothing which anyone can say can justify a reduction of the income of the medical profession either now or in the future.—I am, etc.,

Middlesbrough, April 20. DAVID C. DICKSON.

*** The Secretary of the British Medical Association writes: The central staff of the Association have continually supported the reasonable claims of the profession in the matter of petrol, and, in particular, have repeatedly represented the special needs of the rural practitioner and the consultant in the provinces. A reminder of the need for co-operation on the side of the doctors as well as on the side of the rationing authorities would not have been published if it had not been clearly necessary. There is no question of a general charge against the profession, and Mr. Dickson has read into the remarks concerning hospitals more than was either intended or written. With regard to the E.M.S., the terms and conditions of service are at present under consideration by a special committee with a view to representations being made to the Ministry of Health.

Previous R.A.M.C. Service and Present Rank

SIR,—In addition to combatant service in the last war many medical officers now holding emergency commissions held short-service commissions in the Navy and Army after qualification. There are officers now serving as lieutenants in the R.A.M.C. who were surgeon lieutenants Royal Navy for three or more years. Their age now renders them ineligible for further naval service, but they are accepted in the R.A.M.C. and given the rank of lieutenant. Their previous naval rank was equivalent to that of a captain in the Army. This surely is an anomaly. Might I suggest that in granting the rank of

captain to those officers with sufficient previous Service experience, combatant and/or professional, the present acute shortage would not continue.—I am, etc.,

April 25. EX-SERVICE.

*** We have received a number of other letters on this subject, but are unable to publish them owing to restrictions on space.—ED., *B.M.J.*

Naval, Military, and Air Force Appointments

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

Majors (acting Lieutenant-Colonels) T. Menzies and F. Holmes, O.B.E., to be temporary Lieutenant-Colonels.

Captain (acting Major) G. A. Weir to be temporary Major.

Lieutenant (acting Major) R. N. Hunter to be temporary Major.

Lieutenant (temporary Major) E. R. D. Eastman-Nagle has relinquished the temporary rank of Major and has been granted the War Substantive rank of Captain.

The following short service officers have been appointed to permanent commissions, retaining their present seniority: Captains G. S. Musgrove, P. L. E. Wood, J. S. Kelleher, W. B. Hamilton, A. C. Cox, D. S. Cochrane.

The following Lieutenants have been granted the paid acting rank of Captain: A. M. Baillie, F. A. Bearn, A. J. Ireland, F. Porter-Smith, F. A. Prosser, J. D. Watson, M.C., T. A. Butcher, O.B.E., G. S. Trower, G. M. Coope, C. K. Carroll, M.C., A. E. Delgado, R. Kenefick, M.C., C. V. Nicoll, E. J. Selby, W. O'Brien, C. F. Rainer, O. A. J. N. Muriset, J. Stirling-Gilchrist, E. St. J. Seelly, T. V. Somerville, C. J. D. May, P. A. Ashcroft, J. F. Venables, C. C. Chance.

Lieutenants F. Cassidy and O. A. L. Goode have relinquished their commissions on account of ill-health.

ROYAL AIR FORCE MEDICAL SERVICE

R. Macpherson has been granted a short service commission as a Flying Officer for three years on the active list and has been seconded for duty at St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

Miss Alison M. Clark has been appointed as Medical Officer with the relative rank of Flying Officer.

AUXILIARY AIR FORCE: MEDICAL BRANCH

Flying Officer A. M. Boyne to be Flight Lieutenant.

ROYAL AIR FORCE VOLUNTEER RESERVE: MEDICAL BRANCH

Flying Officers J. S. Brocket, J. A. Chalmers, C. E. Elliott, G. A. Fraser to be Flight Lieutenants.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE OF OFFICERS: ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

Lieutenants (acting Majors) B. L. Williams, H. V. Corbett, and J. W. S. H. Lindahl to be temporary Majors.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

Lieutenant-Colonel A. G. Williams, O.B.E., T.D., has relinquished his commission on account of ill-health and retained his rank, with permission to wear the prescribed uniform.

Major J. L. Menzies, M.C., from Territorial Army Reserve of Officers, to be Major. (Substituted for the notification in the *London Gazette* of September 26, 1939.)

Major E. E. Lightwood has relinquished his commission on account of ill-health and retained his rank, with permission to wear the prescribed uniform. (Substituted for the notification in the *London Gazette* of February 2.)

Major A. Roberts has relinquished his commission on account of ill-health and retained his rank, with permission to wear the prescribed uniform.

Captains P. J. Gibbons and A. J. B. Miall have relinquished their commissions on account of ill-health.

Lieutenants A. W. Gardner, H. D. Crosswell, E. J. Pye-Smith, W. R. Young, G. M. Holliday, P. C. Rushton, L. N. G. Lytton, B. McN. Truscott, J. H. Haslett, J. N. Groves, A. M. Rennie, J. A. Sharkey, I. A. Anderson, J. R. S. Third, B. Kaplan, E. F. Hill, P. H. Shorthouse, D. A. C. McRae, B. B. Hickey to be War Substantive Captains.

Lieutenant H. S. Gaussen has relinquished his commission on account of ill-health.

LAND FORCES: EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

A. A. W. Petrie to be Lieutenant (without pay and allowances) and has been granted the unpaid acting rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

Lieutenants E. H. Griffiths and W. O. Warrington have relinquished their commissions on account of ill-health.

To be Lieutenants: G. I. G. Findlay, T. J. Taunton, R. P. Robertson, J. N. U. Russell, C. March, A. MacPhater, J. A. L. Naughton, D. C. Pim, P. J. O'Flynn, J. Smart, M. C. Brough, J. C. Entrican, R. H. Hannah, J. M. Scott, J. R. Mahon, G. P. McC. Marshall, R. Parfitt, I. McD. G. Stewart, R. B. Davies, D. C. Moir, J. Doupe, C. R. Houghton, J. Lieber, E. W. McMillan, D. C. Sinclair, K. D. G. Abbott, P. M. Barclay, K. G.-A. Barlow, O. G. Bark, G. A. Buggle, E. Campbell, S. M. P. Conway, W. M. Dennison, I. Fraser, K. B. Gibson, T. F. R. Griffin, J. A. James, A. B. King, C. C. Lack, C. M. Ludlow, J. P. Spillane, H. T. Tate, O. G. Young, E. Fletcher, J. M. Henderson, H. W. Ireland, K. M. M. Sheldon, G. M. C. Smith, J. L. Wilkie, M. Franklin, N. D. Gordon, W. E. A. Burton, W. Calder, H. R. T. Delvin, G. Diggle, W. M. Jamieson, J. MacFarlane, G. Nisbet, G. A. W. Whitfield, F. E. Butterfield, J. W. Byrne, J. M. Geddie, I. M. McCully, R. P. Maybin, R. H. R. Hartley, M. Stein, W. Leslie, E. G. Barnes, R. Cotter, T. H. Crozier, B. Homa, S. J. Johnson, A. Laurie, R. E. Lindsay, D. MacKenzie, W. R. H. Mackay, N. S. Mair, C. R. Morison, H. Ryan, T. Simpson, R. I. Wilson, R. R. Bomford, N. C. Burnley-Jones, A. F. Smith, N. Waldman, G. P. Williams, H. A. Dougan, J. T. Lewis, J. P. Watson, J. Dewar, D. G. Liversedge, G. J. Cleland, G. B. Forbes, R. Lees, H. Mullen, E. W. McQuade, P. J. Conlin, T. C. MacInnes, E. J. P. McDowell, C. L. Blacklock, I. Harris, F. G. Lougee, H. G. Scarrow, R. F. O'Donnell, J. F. H. Eagles, J. E. Schneider-Green, H. J. More, J. R. John.

Postgraduate News

The Fellowship of Medicine announces the following courses for M.R.C.P. candidates: (1) chest diseases at Brompton Hospital, Mondays and Thursdays at 5 p.m., from May 6 to 30; (2) heart and lung diseases at London Chest Hospital, Wednesdays and Fridays at 6 p.m., from May 29 to June 21; (3) neurology at West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases, afternoons, June 3 to 14. In addition to these M.R.C.P. courses it is hoped to arrange a short course in gynaecology at Chelsea Hospital for Women early in June.

WEEKLY POSTGRADUATE DIARY

BRITISH POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL, Ducane Road, W.—*Daily*, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Medical Clinics, Surgical Clinics and Operations, Obstetrical and Gynaecological Clinics and Operations. *Daily*, 1.30 to 2 p.m., Post-mortem Demonstration. *Tues.*, 2.30 p.m., Ward Clinic, Dr. Hinds Howell. *Wed.*, 11.30 a.m., Clinico-pathological Conference (Medical); 2 p.m., Bacteriology of Cerebrospinal Meningitis, Hon. T. C. Stamp; 3 p.m., Clinico-pathological Conference (Surgical). *Thurs.*, 2 p.m., Radiological Conference, Dr. Duncan White. *Fri.*, 2 p.m., Clinico-pathological Conference (Gynaecological); 2.30 p.m., Sterility Clinic, Mr. V. B. Green-Armytage.

FELLOWSHIP OF MEDICINE AND POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, 1, Wimpole Street, W.—*Medical Society of London*, 11, Chandos Street, W.—F.R.C.S. Course. Tues., 5 p.m., Tutorial Class, Mr. McNeill Love, Diseases of Joints. *Brompton Hospital*, S.W.—Mon. and Thurs., 5 p.m., M.R.C.P. Course in Chest Diseases.

DIARY OF SOCIETIES AND LECTURES

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.—*Wed.*, 5 p.m. Arnott Demonstration by Dr. A. J. E. Cave: Applied Anatomy of the Abdomen. *Thurs.*, 4 p.m. Lecture on Applied Physiology, Prof. E. D. Adrian, F.R.S.: The Nervous Mechanism of Pain.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE

Special Meeting of Fellows.—Tues., 5 p.m. To approve the suggested new By-law. Nomination of Officers and Council for 1940-1.

General Meeting of Fellows.—Tues., 5.30 p.m. Ballot for election to the Honorary Fellowship and the Fellowship.

Section of Proctology.—Wed., 5 p.m. Annual General Meeting. Election of Officers and Council for 1940-1. Discussion: Surgical Treatment of Idiopathic Ulcerative Colitis and its Sequelae. Openers, Mr. Lionel E. C. Norbury, Mr. W. H. Ogilvie, Prof. G. Grey Turner, and Mr. W. B. Gabriel. Demonstration of specimens by Dr. Cuthbert Dukes.

BIOCHEMICAL SOCIETY.—At British Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith, W., *Fri.*, 2.45 p.m. Communications.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGY, 11, Chandos Street, W.—*Thurs.*, 2.30 p.m. Drs. H. V. Dicks and Ellis Stungo: Analysis under Hypnotics.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, 21, Albemarle Street, W.—*Tues.*, 5.15 p.m. Sir John Boyd Orr, F.R.S.: National Food Requirements.

SOUTH-WEST LONDON MEDICAL SOCIETY.—At Bolingbroke Hospital, Wandsworth Common, S.W., *Wed.*, 8.30 p.m. Dr. Alan Moncrieff: Cow's Milk and the Child.

APPOINTMENTS

COWAN, H. Alexander, F.R.C.S.Ed., D.L.O., Registrar to Ear, Nose, and Throat Department, Royal Free Hospital, and Senior Clinical Assistant, Metropolitan Ear, Nose, and Throat Hospital.

EXAMINING FACTORY SURGEONS.—P. McI. Bennett, M.B., Ch.B., for the Thornhill District (Dumfriesshire); G. S. Morgan, M.B., for the Horsham District (Sussex).

WOMEN'S MEDICAL SERVICE FOR INDIA.—The following appointments have been notified by the Dufferin Association, London: Miss A. W. Chacko, M.B., B.S.; Miss E. M. King, M.B., B.S., D.T.M. and H.; Miss Ghulam Mohammed, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S.Ed.; Miss M. Chaudhuri, M.B., B.S.

B.M.A.: Branch and Division Meetings to be Held

SUSSEX BRANCH: BRIGHTON DIVISION.—At Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, Thursday, May 9, 3.45 p.m. Clinical meeting, to be preceded by Divisional meeting to elect Representatives in Representative Body.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH: DEWSBURY DIVISION.—Sunday, May 5, Dr. Arthur Pool: Minor Mental Maladies, with Some Reference to the War Troubles.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH: YORK DIVISION.—At York Medical Society, 17, Stonegate, York, Saturday, May 11, 8.30 p.m. Annual general meeting. Election of officers, etc.

The Home Secretary announces that Dr. Clifford Gordon Gordon-Wilson of London and Dr. Joseph Archibald Quin of Ramsgate are not now authorized to be in possession of and to supply any drug or preparation to which the Dangerous Drugs Regulations, 1937, or any drug to which the Raw Opium, etc., Regulations, 1937, apply.